DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ON ANDHRA PRADESH, SEA COAST

3097. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Tourism along the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No specific proposal has been received by the Department of Tourism from the State Government for the development of Tourism along the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

PROPOSAL TO CONTROL PRICE OF AIR TRAVEL

3098. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to find ways and means to reduce the cost of travelling or Indian Airlines.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any suggestions hae been obtained from the travelling public in thi regard ;

(d) what steps Indian Airlines propose to control the price of air travel ; and

(e) whether large salary bill and perquisites are the main reasons for high cost of travel by Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Domestic air fares in India are already low in comparison to those of other countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Airlines has taken steps to control cost of operations and other unproductive expenditure so that increase in the price of air trael could be checked. Indian Airlines also provides concession in fare under schemes such as Point-to-Point fares, Fly More Fly Free, Group Discounts, Domestic package tours.

(e) The main reasons are the high cost of fuel and high aircraft related payments, which are to be made in foreign currency.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST PLACES IN EASTERN GHATS

3099. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have encouraged different States to Identify and develop potenial tourist place in the Eastern Ghats ;

(b) whether it is a fact that ARAKU Valley in Andhra Pradesh has excellent prospects for tourism ; and

(c) whether Government will give any assistance to Andhra Pradesh Government to develop ARAKU Valley as a place of tourist attraction ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not submitted any proposal for development of tourism in Araku Velley of the State.

IDENTIFICATION OF MODEL AIRPORTS

3100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Airports Authority has identified model airports befitting the international standards to attract international tourists ;

(b) if so, the details of the model airports identified for the said purpose ;

(c) whether the funds are inadequate for the expansion of airports; and

(d) if so, how much allocations have been made for the Eighth Five Year Plan period for the expansion of the airports ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The airports at Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Bhubaneswar Patna, Lucknow, Jaipur, Hyderabad. Coimbatore, Calicut, Guwahati and Imphal are